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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Political Crisis; Meeting of Central Committee

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1. An emergency full session of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party was called by the Presidium in Prague on 2 to 5 Dec 53. It was presided over by Antonin Novotny, Bruno Kohler and Vaclav Pasek and there were 96 delegates present.
2. Subjects discussed included the establishment of the collective form of leadership in Czechoslovakia, including the position of President Antonin Zapotocky; a critique of the first Five Year Plan and the proclamation of a second Five Year Plan; and a settlement of the current clash between the Party and the syndicalist organization URO.
3. The Kremlin's suspicions of Zapotocky's effort to tighten his dictatorship found an echo among the delegates from Moravia and Slovakia and caused violent debate. Heavy attacks on Zapotocky's personal policy were made by Karol Bacilek and Jan Harus.
4. The announcement of the results of the Five Year Plan provoked bitter comment from the delegates from Pilsen, Moravska Ostrava and Kosice, who complained particularly about the injustice caused by the falsification of production statistics. Siroky defended the government's policy in this regard, but the majority decided to recommend the revision of the second Five Year Plan, and to postpone the announcement of it until this revision has taken place. A committee, consisting of Novotny, Dr Jaromir Dolansky, and Vaclav Nosek, was elected to take charge of the revision.
5. The general feeling of the meeting was that the demand of Josef Tesla and the URO for a greater share of political power should be rejected, as containing the dangerous possibility of repeating the situation that existed before Slansky's removal. Attacks on the URO were made by Vaclav Krutina, Anexka Hodinova-Spurna and Otokar Homola.
6. Due to the difficulty in finding solutions to the major items on the agenda, it was decided to call a Second Congress of the Party, to be held 11 to 13 Jun 54 in Prague. This decision failed to relieve the general feeling of uneasiness in the country. In the absence of Ambassador Bogomolov, the session was watched for the Soviet authorities by M P Firyubin, the current charge d'affaires.

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